Demonia 1

There is a Disease of the mind which is called by M. Pinel "Dimanie". The word is derived from the Latin "Dimentia" which signifies madness. – I object to the word as it raises to the disease to the grade of the derangement of the Understanding of which we have treated. I am at a loss for an appropriate name for it, ~~but I shall describe it.~~

It consists not like one grade of general madness, in false perceptions, but in a constant succession of such perceptions as are true, but wholly unrelated to each other. There is not only a power to recall as they are related an Absence of objects, but a total Absence of judgement, and reason. In short the disease vacates the Surface of the mind only, – and consists in insolated perceptions received by the external senses. This disease is now & then met with in hospitals, but

+ The celebrated Lavater was affected with it
and tho' he wrote with Order, and
correctness, yet his conversation was
a mass of incoherent subjects deli=
=vered with gestures that indicated
~~adorn his wood = & up adorn his stairs~~ and even actions of his whole body ~~up~~
a Degree of madness. I shall read to you
a short account of a visit paid to him at
Zurich by an English Clergyman in 17[illegible]
he exemplified this state of Mind. in

more frequently in social life. There is no City - village, ~~nor~~ Country place that does not furnish an instance of it. ~~It is~~ Persons who are afflicted with it in Scotland are said to have a bee in their bonnet. In this Country we call the same flate of the mind, flightiness. + You will be able to Under=stand the nature of the disease & probably to apply it to some person within your knowledge while I deliver the following short history of it. A person under the influence of this Disease of the mind is always in motion. He rises early, calls his servants from their beds - Drives & scolds them until they put his house in order - is unable to sit Still - sings for his breakfast - sallies out afterwards to his neighbours, or to places of public resort - speaks to

every person he meets, not only upon his own, but their affairs. ~~He talks~~ He asks an hundred questions, but does not wait for an answer to any one of them. His speech is rapid, & unconnected. ~~He passes~~ passes from one subject to another until he touches upon twenty different subjects in a minute. Should an acquaintance or even a stranger pass he at this time - he accosts ~~them~~ him - inquires after ~~their~~ his family - and ~~digresses with him~~ rambles into as many different subjects as in his ~~first~~ interview with the first person he met in the morning. He is quarrelsome & good tempered ~~& friendly~~, malicious, & friendly, generous, ~~quarrelsome, or malicious and~~ and enviously all in the course of the same day. His mind may be considered as a Ballroom - at the mercy of every impression that acts upon it. This state of mind is constant in some people, but it occurs more frequently in paroxysms, &

is sometimes succeeded by low spirits.
I said formerly that Hysteria consisted
in debility of the nervous & muscular
System. The disease I have described is
occasioned by a similar mobility in those
parts of the brain which are the seats of
the mind. This mobility you may recollect
I said consisted in an excess of Union of
Irritability & sensibility.

The Remedies for this disease
when attended with great excitement as it
generally is - are Vs: - low diet - purges,
and all the other Remedies for Abstracting
excitement from the brain in intellectu-
al madness. —

~~In the second~~ When the disease
is periodical, the tonics ~~fr. cinchonidi~~ should

be given in its intervals.

~~Lethargy &c~~ go to diseases of memory opposite p: 556.